(iv) Harmonization of Penal provisions considering the gravity of the offence.

(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Group to review the various provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 for considering the representations and suggestions received from various organisations.

News-item "What's Wrong with our Blood"

2141. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "What's wrong with our blood", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 19th September, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the aforesaid news-item ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Red Cross Society had offered to provide 1000 units of blood among other support to its counterpart, American Red Cross during the September 11 crisis in New York. The American Red Cross, while appreciating such offers from various Red Cross Societies from all over the world declined assistance as they were meeting their own demands.

There are no reliable tests available for detection of carrier state of malaria and hence in United States and some other developed countries, the donors with history of having had malaria in the past or those who have been in malaria endemic regions such as India are deferred as per their national guidelines and US FDA requirements.

News-item "Nicholas Piramal asks DCI to order withdrawal of Grastim Stocks"

2142. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Nicholas Piramal asks DCI to order withdrawal of Grastim stocks", which appeared in the Financial Express, dated 21st September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against DCI for negligence in the matter;

(c) whether such type of incidents had been brought to the notice of his Ministry in the past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Nicholas Piramal India Limited (NPIL), Mumbai, had moved the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission urging it to ask Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad to withdraw r-GCSF (Grastim) injection, stocks and stop sales of the product as the NPIL alleged that the package insert of Grastim contains some false and misleading statements. Similar representation was also make to DCG(I).

Consequent to the representation, M/s. Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad was directed to submit fresh revised package insert of Grastim and to replace the existing package insert. M/s. Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad then submitted revised version of package insert after deleting the objectionable matter and the same was approved.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Involvement of PRIs in Family Welfare Programme

2143. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Family Welfare Programme;

(b) the achievement of each State regarding the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of Family Welfare Programme; and

(c) the funds allocated to each State for the said programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Department of Family Welfare strives to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through a number of programmes/schemes where participation of the community especially PRIs is envisaged.